ans'd 2/8/73

W. Richard Weagly
901 CANDLELIGHT PLACE
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037

Dec. 21, 1972

Dear Sunny and Gene:

I had hoped to have all my cards on their way by this time, but here I am, still working at them. I hope this finds you well, when it does arrive, and that you had (I better conclude it will be late) a great Christmas.

We are enjoying weather in the upper 70's and I have all the windows open most of the time. School closed on the 15th until Jan. 3rd, so I have a good vacation. We had talked of London for Christmas, but have settled for next summer when we will have more time. I will go over in June and Anna will join me in Hereford for the Three Choirs Festival in August. Following that, we will spend some time In London looking for apartments, location, size, costs, etc. as we are concentrating on retirement there in 1977, even tho' it seems ages off.

My girls sang a good carol program on the 10th, and I used some of the old carols from Riverside, so felt a little at home. Rhoda Van Dyke lives out here, too, and came to the program, so it was natural to think of NYC. I had a nice note from Jim, and he, too, wrote of our good association and the happy past, which is easier now to recall than it was in 1968. How much water has gone over the dam since then, and how many changes have followed our departure. Perhaps mine was quite mixed up in the overall upheavals, and I was too blind to see anything but my own distress. How great that I had Gene Exman to hold me together and to suffer it with me! Is there really any way to say thanks for what you did? Well, my heart says so over and over again!

Anna is making stabs at trimming our artificial tree, and it was such a disappointment to me two years ago that I swore I would never put it up again, so it is entirely her baby. We

enjoy the balminess of this climate but it is difficult to catch a Christmassy feeling at these temperatures.

Fred Swann was out here last May and played a good recital, and it was a pleasure to hear sounds very similar to Riverside once again. We had him to dinner the evening before and caught up on many matters. Becky Lyons was here for a convention in June, so we saw her twice, as well. DOKTOR Fox played here twice within the past six or eight months but I could not bring myself to go. Anna went to the first concert, in St. Paul's Episcopal church, but left at the intermission, as it was ten o'clock by then and he had talked more than he played, mostly evangelism, the critics said. When he came the 2nd time he played outdoors at a college, and the fog was so thick they could hardly see the colored lights. HA! His reviews are scathing, but he seems to go merrily along, even so. Phyllis Duncan, who used to live in our garage apartment, wrote on her card to me that he is asking $450.000 for the property, and hopes to move to Arizona. As she said, that is some profit on a $55,000.00 investment, isn't it? And to think he said I hadn't a penny in it!!!! I am well out of it all!

Enuf of this gossip. When are you coming all the way out to this coast, or are you spending all your extra time in Europe? Is your daughter still in Germany? I wish we could have an old-time visit, but wonder just how. I doubt very much if we come east before we take the final plunge, and tho' we contemplate a stop-over, maybe, I doubt if it can be long or extensive. If my friends keep dying at the present rate, there won't be any left by 1977. I am sure you know of Ted Ferris's death. I have had word of four deaths in Christmas cards, two in England that I was hoping to have for many years after we got there. So...the circle closes, and the doors close, and one is left more and more on one's own.

May the new year bring you every good gift, especially health and ever greater fulfillment for your family.

Love,

Dick